



**March 22, 2022**

**To: Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee RE: HF 3513**

**Dear Chair Lieblich and Members of the Committee:**

ISAI AH is a statewide organization comprised of congregations, mosques, barbershops and childcare centers. Our Kids Count on Us Coalition is comprised of 512 childcare centers throughout the state serving thousands of families on children between the ages of zero to five. Altogether, the institutions we help organize represent over half a million Minnesotans.

Young Minnesotans between the ages of zero to five of every race, place, and creed deserve access to affordable, safe, and enriching childcare programs and educational opportunities. Unfortunately, the childcare workers and educators we rely on to teach and care for youngest kids are among the lowest paid workers in the entire state.

We support the efforts in HF 3513 to look for creative solutions to the provision of benefits for the essential workers. We know childcare providers are struggling to pay the bills and ensure their own families are healthy. Providing temporary relief for healthcare premiums is one way Minnesota can better support these workers and families.

We appreciate the work of Representative Koegel in bringing this bill forward and look forward to helping craft numerous critical solutions for our youngest learners and the professionals who teach and care for them every day.

Sincerely,

Lars Negstad, Policy Director, ISAI AH